

## Ten Critical Steps for Handling Possible Bioterrorism Events\*

<b>1 - Maintain an index of suspicion.</b>	<p>In an otherwise healthy population, some associations are very suggestive, especially when seen in clusters, high numbers, or unusual presentations.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="555 464 1386 674"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="555 464 846 499">"Clustered" Symptoms</th><th data-bbox="846 464 1386 499">Potential Bioagents</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="555 499 846 535">Hemoptysis</td><td data-bbox="846 499 1386 535">Plague</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="555 535 846 571">Flaccid Paralysis</td><td data-bbox="846 535 1386 571">Botulism</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="555 571 846 606">Purpura</td><td data-bbox="846 571 1386 606">Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers (VHF)</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="555 606 846 642">Wide mediastinum</td><td data-bbox="846 606 1386 642">Anthrax</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="555 642 846 674">Centripetal rash</td><td data-bbox="846 642 1386 674">Smallpox</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	"Clustered" Symptoms	Potential Bioagents	Hemoptysis	Plague	Flaccid Paralysis	Botulism	Purpura	Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers (VHF)	Wide mediastinum	Anthrax	Centripetal rash	Smallpox						
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<b>2 - Protect yourself and your patients</b>	Use appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE). Prophylaxis: vaccines, if available; or antibiotics, if risks are known																		
<b>3 - Adequately assess the patient</b>	<p>Review and assess the patient's history. Also, ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are others ill?</li> <li>• Were there any unusual events?</li> <li>• Was there an uncontrolled food source or other environmental factor?</li> <li>• Was there vector exposure?</li> <li>• Has the patient been traveling?</li> <li>• What is the patient's immunization record?</li> </ul> <p>Perform a physical examination with special attention to the respiratory system nervous system, skin condition, and hematologic and vascular status</p>																		
<b>4 - Decontaminate as appropriate</b>	<p>Do not use bleach on exposed people. Soap, water and shampoo are perfectly adequate for all biological and most chemical agents. Chemically contaminated clothes should be removed and discarded safely. Biologically contaminated clothes can be laundered with soap, water and, perhaps, bleach.</p>																		
<b>5 - Establish a diagnosis.</b>	<p>Think clinically and epidemiologically; always send specimens for culture.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="555 1415 1386 1877"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="555 1415 976 1451">Symptom (individuals)</th><th data-bbox="976 1415 1386 1451">Possible Diagnosis</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="555 1451 976 1518">Pulmonary</td><td data-bbox="976 1451 1386 1518">Tularemia, plague, staph enterotoxin B (SEB)</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="555 1518 976 1585">Neuromuscular</td><td data-bbox="976 1518 1386 1585">Botulism, Venezuelan equine encephalitis (VEE)</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="555 1585 976 1621">Bleeding/purpura</td><td data-bbox="976 1585 1386 1621">VHF, ricin, plague (late)</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="555 1621 976 1688">Rash (various types)</td><td data-bbox="976 1621 1386 1688">VHF, T2 mycotoxin, smallpox, plague</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="555 1688 976 1724">Flu-like symptoms</td><td data-bbox="976 1688 1386 1724">Varies</td></tr> <tr> <th data-bbox="555 1724 976 1780">Immediate Symptoms (large numbers)</th><th data-bbox="976 1724 1386 1780">Possible Diagnosis</th></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="555 1780 976 1848">Pulmonary</td><td data-bbox="976 1780 1386 1848">SEB, mustard, Lewisite, phosgene, cyanide</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="555 1848 976 1877">Neurologic</td><td data-bbox="976 1848 1386 1877">Nerve gases, cyanide</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Symptom (individuals)	Possible Diagnosis	Pulmonary	Tularemia, plague, staph enterotoxin B (SEB)	Neuromuscular	Botulism, Venezuelan equine encephalitis (VEE)	Bleeding/purpura	VHF, ricin, plague (late)	Rash (various types)	VHF, T2 mycotoxin, smallpox, plague	Flu-like symptoms	Varies	Immediate Symptoms (large numbers)	Possible Diagnosis	Pulmonary	SEB, mustard, Lewisite, phosgene, cyanide	Neurologic	Nerve gases, cyanide
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	Delayed Symptoms (large numbers)	Possible Diagnosis
	Pulmonary	Biologic agents, mustard, phosgene
	Neurologic	Botulism, VEE, other encephalitis
6 - Render prompt treatment.	<u>A</u> irway, <u>B</u> reathing, <u>C</u> irculation.	
7 - Provide good infection control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gown, gloves, mask and hand washing, and eyewear if necessary, are sufficient.</li><li>• Recommended isolation precautions for biologic agents include:</li><li>• Standard Precautions - For all individuals/patients</li><li>• Contact Precautions - Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers</li><li>• Droplet Precautions - Pneumonic Plague and Tularemia</li><li>• Airborne Precautions - Smallpox</li></ul>	
8 - Alert the proper authorities.	<b><u>CALL FIRST:</u> Your local law enforcement agency; call either 911 or your local phone number for law enforcement.</b> <b><u>CALL SECOND:</u> Your area FBI Office:</b> <b>Western WA: 206-622-0460</b> <b>Eastern WA: 509-747-5196</b> <b>after hours statewide in WA: 206-622-0460</b> <b><u>CALL THIRD:</u> Your local emergency management agency, or if unavailable, the WA State EM Duty Officer at: 1-800-258-5990</b>	
9 - Assist in the epidemiologic investigations	Steps in an epidemiologic investigation so as to determine who may be at risk.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Count cases;</li><li>• Relate to the at-risk population;</li><li>• Make comparisons;</li><li>• Develop hypotheses;</li><li>• Test hypotheses;</li><li>• Make inferences;</li><li>• Conduct studies;</li><li>• Interpret and evaluate.</li></ul>	
10- Know and spread this information		

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